

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please insert the following headings and paragraph at page 1, after the title:

PRIORITY CLAIM

This is a U.S. national stage of International Application No. PCT/CH2003/00373, filed on June 12, 2003. Priority is claimed on that application and on the following application:

Country: Switzerland, Application No. 1005/02, Filed: June 13, 2002.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 1, line 6 to page 1, line 10, with the following rewritten paragraph:

The invention relates to a method of folding a textile strip section, especially a section of strip labels, ~~according to the preamble of claim 1,~~ and also to a system for implementing the method ~~according to claim 3.~~

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 1, line 14 to page 1, line 31, with the following rewritten paragraph:

Methods and systems of the type mentioned at the beginning are known ~~many times~~, for example from US Patent No. 3148874 and so on. In the mentioned methods and systems, fixing of the folded strip section is generally carried out only after folding and in the folded state. This has the disadvantage that fixing takes up a relatively great deal of time and, moreover, there is the risk that the strip section will be given glossy points on the visible side, which are produced by the pressing and heating of the folded strip, in particular when excessively intense heating has taken place. For the purpose of improvement, US Patent No. 3148874 has provided for the folding region to be heated on the front side before folding. Apart from the fact that heating the front side

of the strip section leads to glossy points on the strip section, the heating is not sufficient to ensure satisfactory folding, in particular in the case of relatively thick strips.

Please delete the paragraph beginning at page 2, line 1 to page 2, line 3 and insert the following:

Pursuant to this object, and others which will become apparent hereafter, one aspect of the present invention resides in a method for folding a textile strip section by first feeding the strip section to a supporting element, initially heating the strip section on a rear side in a region to be folded, and then folding and finally fixing the strip section in the folded state by pressing and subsequently heating. Another aspect of the invention resides in a system for folding a textile strip section, which system includes a folding device and a heating device arranged upstream of the folding device so as to heat up the folding region of the strip section. The heating device is arranged to act on a rear side of the strip section.

Please delete the paragraph beginning at page 2, line 31 to page 2, line 32.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 2, line 34 to page 2, line 36, with the following rewritten paragraph:

According to ~~claim 2~~ a further embodiment of the inventive method, the pre-heating can be carried out approximately as far as the softening point of the strip material.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 3, line 1 to page 3, line 19, with the following rewritten paragraph:

The system for implementing the method expediently has a heating device placed upstream of the folding device in order to heat up the folding region of the strip section on the rear of the ~~latter~~ strip section. The heating device can be arranged at a certain distance from the folding station. A

formation of the system ~~as claimed in claim 4~~ according to a further embodiment is advantageous; ~~according to which~~ in that the folding device is assigned a supporting element for the strip section per folding region. According to ~~claim 5~~ another embodiment, the supporting element can be assigned a holding element which can be fed against the latter in order to hold the strip section on the supporting element. According to ~~claim 6, the supporting element and/or still~~ another embodiment, additionally the holding element can advantageously be equipped with an electric heating device. The system can have a specific feed device for the strip section to the folding device which, according to ~~claim 7~~ still a further embodiment, is equipped with a heating device for heating the folding region of the strip section.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 3, line 35 to page 4, line 13, with the following rewritten paragraph:

Figures 1 to 8 show a strip section 2, which has been fed over rails 4 arranged in pairs to supporting elements 6 upstream of a folding device 8. The supporting elements 6 are assigned holding elements 10, which can be pressed against the supporting elements 6 in order to hold the strip section 2 firmly on the supporting elements. The supporting elements 6 arranged at the two ends of the strip section 2 in the folding region are equipped with a heating device 12 in order to heat the strip section in the folding region on the side facing away from the visible side 14. ~~Alternatively or additionally~~ Additionally, the rails 4 and/or the holding element 10 can be equipped with a heating device in a manner not specifically illustrated. The folding device has folding elements 16, which are provided with a run-on surface 18 and contain clamping elements 20.

Please delete page 6 in its entirety.